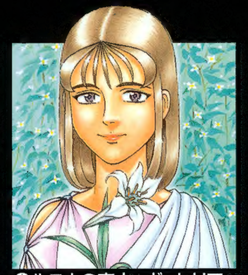

▲ルスカの恋人・ヴァレリア

登場人物

セスタス：ローマ帝国の最下層階級の拳奴の集まり、ヴァレンス奴隷闘士養成所に身を置く少年。生き延びるために闘いを余儀なくされる。

ザファル：ヌミディア出身の拳奴。セスタスに拳闘の才能を見いだし、師として拳の技を教え込む。過去にデミトリアスと闘い膝が不自由に。

デミトリアス：ローマ帝国の勇者。別名アッティカの金獅子。過去にザファルと闘い右眼を失っている。徒手格闘兵団（パンクラトス・レギオン）衛帝隊・隊長。

ルスカ：デミトリアスの息子、皇立徒手格闘兵団首席訓練生。ローマの格闘児の異名をとる。

ルクレティア：兄・ルスカを慕う活発な少女。

ロクサーネ：アルカディア出身の徒手格闘兵団衛帝隊・弐等衛士。

ヴァレリア：ルスカの恋人であり最大の理解者。セスタス達、拳奴にも慈愛の心を示す。

ヴァレンス：ヴァレリアの父親であり奴隷闘士養成所の持ち主。冷血な権力の亡者。

JETS COMICS

拳闘暗黒伝CESTVS セスタス vol.4

WAZARAI SHIZUYA

技来静也

JETS COMICS
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技来静也の好評既刊

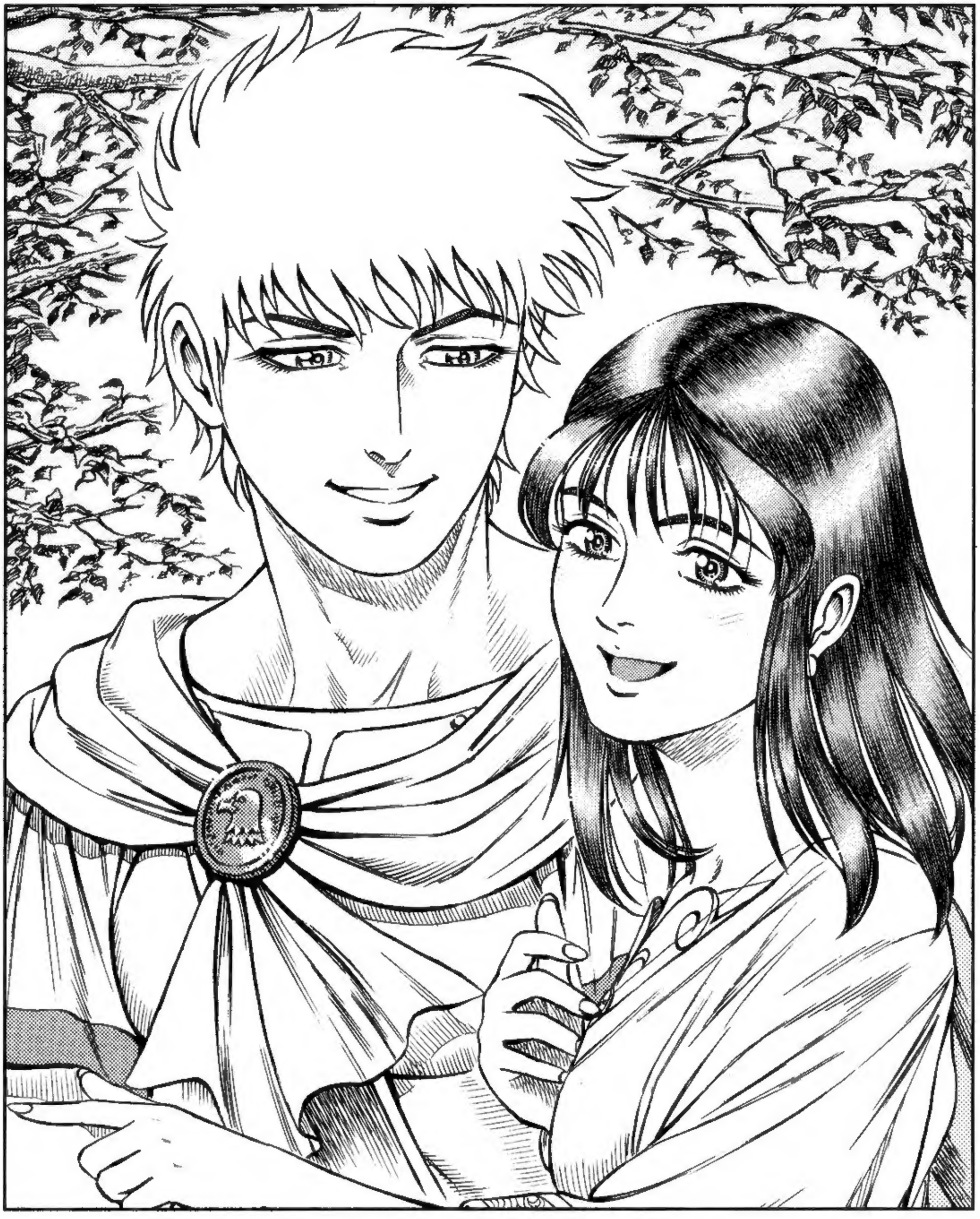
拳闘暗黒伝セスタス◆全⑮巻

世界帝国となったローマを舞台に、拳奴（けんど）・セスタスの成長を通して自由を勝ち取る大切さを語るボクシング・アクション!!

YOUNG ヤングアニマル ANIMAL
毎月第2・第4金曜日発売

JETS COMICS

拳闘暗黒伝セスタス④



技来静也

拳闘暗黒伝CESTVS

セスタス

4

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JETS COMICS

この作品はフィクションです。実在の人物・
団体・事件などとは、いっさい無関係です。

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拳闘暗黒伝CESTVS

セスタス

CHAPTER XXV:

A MAGIC FIST

WHEN HE TORE APART MY BODY THE PAIN WAS SO INTENSE.

SO THAT WAS A LOCKING TECHNIQUE!

THIS ARM WOULD'VE BEEN BROKEN...!

HAD I BEEN RISKING MY LIFE IN ACTUAL COMBAT...

I COULD'VE LOST EVERYTHING...!

NO, MUCH MORE THAN THAT...

NO.

HAH...

IS YOUR LEFT ARM STILL HURTING?

YOU'RE LATE, CESTVS.

...

I'M FINE...

IT'S FULLY HEALED...

POWERLESS THEN?

ARE MY FISTS...

ワワワワ。。

OH, SOME DULL LITTLE BRAWL.

BY THE WAY, WHAT'S GOING ON THERE?

RECENTLY HE'S BEEN FINDING IT HARD TO CONCENTRATE DURING TRAINING.

AS I THOUGHT, IT'S THE IMPACT OF THAT MATCH...

JUST A MINUTE.

HEY, CESTVS.

ドン

!

SEEMS THIS IS THE TRUE STRENGTH OF A SLAVE BOXER!

WELL, HOW'S THAT?! TAKE A GOOD LOOK!

BOXING HAS NO USE IN A REAL FIGHT!

WHY ISN'T THE FIGHT BEING STOPPED?

THE GUARDS ARE WATCHING IT TOO.

WHO'S THAT? I DON'T RECOGNISE HIM...

HE HAS 48 WINS TOTAL IN WRESTLING.

AND HE'S PASSED 20 WINS IN PANKRATION...

HE'S EVEN MORE OF A MAD DOG THAN THE RUMOURS SAY.

HE'S A HAND TO HAND FIGHTER WHO WAS PURCHASED BY LORD VALENS...

I HEARD THAT HE WENT FOR A HIGH PRICE, HE'S CERTAINLY STRONG.

AND HIS WORK HAS BECOME A LITTLE BROADER.

HOWEVER, LARGE SUMS OF MONEY HAVE RECENTLY BEEN FLOWING AROUND.

YOU'RE AWFULLY NOISY FOR A TOAD.

WHO WILL DARE TO FACE DIOGENES OF CORINTH?!

WELL, WHO'S NEXT?!

IT'S BORIS.

BORIS IS HERE!

I'LL SMASH THAT FILTHY NOGGIN' OF YOURS.

A NEWCOMER SHOULDN'T BE SO CONCEITED...!

BORIS IS A BOXER WITH 80 VICTORIES...

HE SHOULD PROVE INTERESTING.

THIS STENCH, THIS STENCH!

TCH.

IT'S THE STENCH OF FRESH PREY!

KU KU KU...

COULD YOU JUST SUDDENLY STRIKE DOWN AT HIM?

HOW DO YOU ATTACK IT?

BUT WOULD IT WORK WITH THAT THICK NECK?

IS THAT HOW HE WRESTLES?!

WHAT AN ODD, LOW POSTURE!

SEEMS HE'LL FIGHT LIKE THAT?

BORIS' BACK IS TALL.

SWOOSH.

HE'S FAST!

IF THEY GRAPPLE YOUR CHEST, THEN YOU'VE NO WAY TO ATTACK!

IT'S OVER!

IT'S NO GOOD! WITH THAT SWIFT CHARGE HE'S ALREADY CLOSED DOWN ALL WEAK SPOTS!

KUH.

HOW'S THAT? WHY NOT TRY PUNCHING ME, BOXER?!

OR MAYBE I'LL TRY IT OUT MYSELF!

!

KUH.

KUHAHAHAHAHA!

KUUH.

KUUH.

AGAINST A SLAVE BOXER WITH 80 WINS...!

HE WAS ABLE TO WIN SO EASILY...

A BOXER CAN'T WIN OVER SOMEONE WHO FIGHTS WITH A COMBINATION OF FIGHTING STYLES.

I KNEW IT'D BE NO GOOD...

!

GET IT NOW, THIS IS REAL COMBAT!

THIS IS WHAT IT REALLY MEANS TO FIGHT!

IT CAN CERTAINLY BE SAID THAT I'M AT A "DISADVANTAGE".

HOWEVER, I DON'T RECALL IT EVER BEING DECIDED THAT I CAN'T WIN.

YOU'VE THE WRONG IDEA, CESTVS.

IF YOU HOLD ONTO SUCH WARINESS, THEN NO MATTER HOW MUCH YOU PRACTICE, YOU'LL NEVER BECOME A MASTER.

MAS-TER...!

WHO THE HELL ARE YOU THEN?!

MAS-TER?!

EH?!

THOUGH HE'S CERTAINLY AN ANNOYING ONE...

HM?

Y... YES SIR.

WATCH CLOSELY!

I'LL BE YOUR NEXT OPPONENT!

I AM ZAFAR OF NUMIDIA.

IF THAT'S THE CASE, I'LL FIGHT YOU WITH ONLY MY RIGHT HAND.

WHAT A COWARD, TO BE AFRAID OF A CRIPPLE...

AAH?

WHAT A LOADA SHIT. I AIN'T GOT NO NEED FOR A CRIPPLE.

GET THE HELL BACK.

KU KU KU. EVEN IF YOU BURST INTO TEARS, IT'LL BE TOO LATE.

I'LL MAKE IT SO YOU CAN NEVER WALK AGAIN.

THERE'S NO WAY MASTER WILL BE ABLE TO BEAR HIS OPPONENT'S CHARGE WITH HIS KNEE.

THIS IS INSANE.

MASTER CAN'T WIN.

IT'S NO GOOD.

GULP

SWISH.

CREAK.

CREAK.

HE COULDN'T LAND A DIRECT HIT, AND NOW HE'S BEEN GRAPPLED!

IT'S THE SAME AGAIN!

CREAK

GOT YOU!

KIIIII

CRACK!

GUORGH!

110!

HAH!

GA...

AH...

AH...

GUH.

ヨロ..

ヨロ..

THUMP

THUMP

THUMP

THUMP

W...
OOAH...

MASTER!

HHHH...

DID YOU PROPERLY OBSERVE...

MY FIGHT JUST NOW?

IS THAT ALL THAT YOU NOTICED?

ALL THE WHILE BEING BURDENED BY YOUR LEFT LEG...!

YOU REALLY DID IT, WITH ONLY YOUR RIGHT HAND AND TWO PUNCHES!

...

TO THINK THAT YOU COULD FIGHT LIKE THAT!

I WAS SO SURPRISED, MASTER!

MAKE SURE YOU MASTER YOUR OWN PUNCH, CESTVS.

SO LONG AS YOU'VE FAITH IN YOUR OWN FISTS, YOU NEED NEVER FEAR ANY OTHER SORT OF FIGHTER.

MAKE SURE YOU REMEMBER THIS.

YOU'VE OVERLOOKED A KEY POINT...

EH... WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

IF YOU DON'T BELIEVE IN THOSE SKILLS WHICH YOU'VE MASTERED, YOU'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO GRASP VICTORY!

FIGHTERS OF ALL KINDS WILL HAVE POINTS WHEREIN EACH OF THEIR BELIEFS ARE CALLED INTO QUESTION.

DO NOT FORGET THAT THE GOD OF SLAVE BOXERS HAS TWO FISTS.

JUST HOW WAS HE ABLE TO MAKE SUCH AN EFFECTIVE PUNCH WHEN HE STRUCK THE BACK OF HIS OPPONENT?

EVEN IF I WERE TO HAVE A POWERFUL PUNCH LIKE MASTER'S...

THE LOWEST TWO RIBS ARE THE SHORTEST IN LENGTH.

HUMANS HAVE 12 RIBS.

THEY ARE KNOWN AS THE FLOATING RIBS. THEY DO NOT FORM RINGS, BUT INSTEAD ARE ATTACHED ONLY BY COSTAL CARTILAGE.

FLOATING RIBS.

THE POINTED ENDS ARE ESPECIALLY EASY TO BREAK.

BECAUSE OF THIS, THEY'LL BEND UNDER PRESSURE.

IT'S WHERE THE KIDNEY'S ARE LOCATED!

WHAT'S MORE, WITHIN THE FLOATING RIBS ARE...

DELICATE ORGANS...

IT'S EXTREMELY DANGEROUS...

AND IS PROHIBITED IN BOXING!

THE DEVILISH HAMMER WAS A KIDNEY BLOW.

AAAH, SO HE GOT DONE IN EH.

THEY ONLY JUST BOUGHT HIM, YET HE'S BROKEN NOW.

NO WAY AM I DOING IT!

STILL, HOW THE HELL DO WE REPORT THIS TO LORD VALENS?

WHAT AN IDIOT... HE GOT TOO COCKY...

HOW MANY TIMES ARE YOU LOOKING TO TELL ME THE SAME THING?

VALERIA.

PLEASE, STOP THIS HORRIFYING WORK AT ONCE!

I'LL SAY IT AS MANY TIMES AS NEED BE, FATHER!

I CANNOT ABANDON IT IN THE MIDDLE!

THIS IS A MASSIVE UNDERTAKING! I'VE WAGERED EVERYTHING I OWN, AND EVEN GONE INTO DEBT OVER IT!

...

I HAVE DONE WHAT YOU ASKED OF ME TILL NOW FATHER...

I WOULD COME WITHOUT PRYING INTO YOUR WORK.

NO, I DID NOT EVEN REALLY KNOW WHAT IT WAS.

BUT I BELIEVE THAT TO NOW HAVE BEEN A MISTAKE!

FOR YOUR SAKE ALONE, HOW MANY POOR, PITIABLE SLAVES HAVE THERE BEEN...

WHO'VE DIED?! SOME WERE MY AGE, AND SOME WERE MERE CHILDREN!

RIGHT NOW MOTHER IS...

I KNOW ALL ABOUT HER!

I BEG OF YOU FATHER.

PLEASE STOP THIS.

DO NOT ANGER ME ANYMORE VALERIA.

THIS IS NO MATTER FOR WOMEN AND CHILDREN TO TALK OF.

HA HA HA

ARE YOU OKAY SEPARATING FROM MOTHER, FATHER?!

I AM DOING THIS WORK FOR YOUR SAKE, VALERIA.

HOWEVER, YOU ARE MY PRECIOUS, ONLY DAUGHTER.

THERE IS NO FIXING THINGS WITH YOUR MOTHER NOW.

JUST WHAT AM I TO DO?!

DO YOU UNDERSTAND, YOU NEED BEAR WITH IT JUST A LITTLE LONGER, VALERIA.

THIS SLAVE BOXER BUSINESS IS THE GROUNDWORK WHICH I MUST PASS THROUGH FOR THAT.

IF I CAN INCREASE MY WEALTH...

REACHING THE ROMAN SENATE WOULD NO LONGER BE A MERE DREAM.

COULD PREPARE FOR A GOOD MARRIAGE.

IF WE RAISE OUR SOCIAL STANDING, THEN YOU TOO...

NOW, VALERIA...

PLEASE STOP CRYING.

YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE WHO I WANT TO ACCOMPANY ME...

I DON'T WANT ANY MORE WEALTH OR STATUS THAN WHAT WE HAVE NOW!

I DON'T WISH FOR MY MARRIAGE PARTNER TO BE CHOSEN FOR ME!

BESIDES...

I WOULD FIND IT UNPLEASANT...

VALERIA!

...

IT COULDN'T BE THAT THERE'S ALREADY A BOY WHOM YOU LIKE!?

WH... WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?! VALERIA?!

THUMP

RUSKA DEMITORIUS.

THOU ART HEREBY INSTATED AS A THIRD RANKED GUARD, IN THE ELITE GUARD UNIT.

YOU WERE BORN HERE IN ROME.

WHILE YOU BEAR THE BLOOD OF ATTICAN ROYALTY...

FROM TODAY ONWARDS, YOU SHALL CALL YOURSELF RUSKA OF ROME!

HENCEFORTH, THOU SHALT SERVE AS HIS MAJESTY'S SHIELD, BEARING THINE MASTERED COMBAT SKILLS IN THE ACCOMPLISHMENT OF THIS TASK.

THOU SHALT BE ACCOMPANIED BY THE GOD OF WAR'S PROTECTION.

WITH THIS I'M PUBLICLY DISCHARGED TOO.

フフ...

MASTER...

CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR ENLISTMENT, RUSKA.

FOR MY MOTHER AND LUCRETIA'S SAKE, I SHALL GLADY TAKE ON THE TITLE OF ROME!

THIS IS THE DAY WHICH I HAVE LONGED FOR, FATHER...

AT LONG LAST, I HAVE REACHED THE PLACE WHEREIN I CAN DEFEAT YOU!

FINALLY, YOU'RE WITHIN MY REACH....

CHAPTER XXV: A MAGIC FIST - END

拳闘暗黒伝CESTVS

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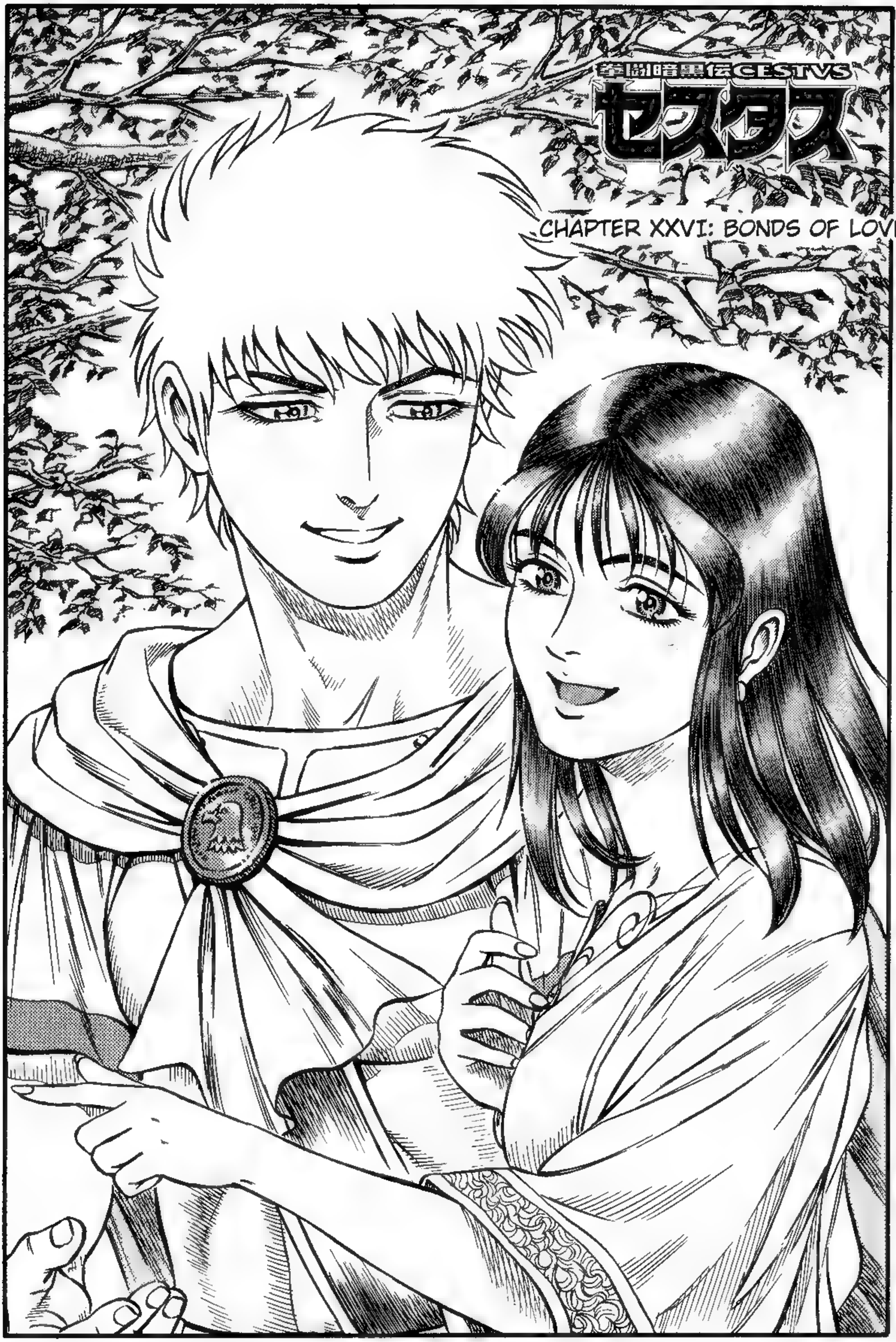
CHAPTER XXVI: BONDS OF LOVE



DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME, CESTVS.

MAS-TER...!

ガシャリ

NOW, HURRY UP AND GO!

BUT...

ジャラ..

YOU SHOULD BE THANKFUL, ZAFAR...

EVEN THOUGH YOU CRUSHED THAT NEWLY BOUGHT FIGHTER, YOU CAN ATTAIN FORGIVENESS BY SPENDING SOME TIME IN CONFINEMENT.

UNTIL YOU CAN APPRECIATE THE MEANING OF WHAT I TOLD YOU...

YOU ARE TO PRACTICE WITH THOSE CHAINS ON!

DON'T RAISE YOUR CHINS! IDIOTS!

RAISE YOUR LEGS, YOUR LEGS!

...

WHAT ON EARTH WAS HE TELLING ME TO DO?

THESE CHAINS ONLY STRETCH AS FAR AS MY SHOULDERS.

I CAN'T RUN WITH THEM ON MY LEGS.

JUST WHAT WAS MASTER TRYING TO TELL ME?!

BACK THEN, BEYOND SIMPLY PREPARING FOR A HARSH PUNISHMENT...

IT SEEMS AS THOUGH YOU'VE MISSED A KEY POINT...

RELATED TO THESE CHAINS...?

SO IT'S SOMEHOW...

ヌカーン

MAYBE I'M JUST AN IDIOT?!

IT'S NO GOOOOD! I DON'T GET IT AT ALL!

REEF

SUNKEN

IN DEEP THOUGHT...

HUH, DID SHE SEE ME?!

MISS VALERIA...

I REALLY AM.

I'M SORRY.

WOULD YOU PLEASE STAND BACK!

MY LADY, THIS RUDE FELLOW...!

PRACTICE... YES, THAT'S WHAT MY MASTER SAID...

AH. WELL, YOU SEE, THESE CHAINS. THAT'S...

I HAVE SEEN THE TERRIBLE THINGS WHICH YOU HAVE ALL SUFFERED...

YOU MAY WELL RESENT MY FATHER...

ジャラ...

O...

OKAY...

カアアアア

ピキッ!!

I WILL DEFINITELY BE ABLE TO PERSUADE FATHER.

IF YOU GIVE ME A LITTLE MORE TIME.

CLUTCH

ス..

BUT WHY SHOULD HUMANS BE IN SUCH A HORRIFIC SITUATION?!

YOU HAVE YOUR OWN CIRCUMSTANCES AFTER ALL...

IS SHE SERIOUS?

THIS GIRL...

...

THUMP

THUMP

THUMP

I DON'T KNOW WHETHER YOU'LL BE ABLE TO FORGIVE ME...

SHE'S SO KIND...

I CAN'T BELIEVE THAT SHE'S VALENS' DAUGHTER.

MY LADY, THE CARRIAGE HAS BEEN PREPARED.

ｹﾗﾗ

I'M AFRAID I DON'T UNDER-STAND...

WELL?

I'M AN IDIOT YOU SEE...

...

I'LL KEEP TRYING AS MUCH AS I CAN...

JUST WAIT A LITTLE LONGER, CESTVS.

H" H" H"..

...?

THE HELL ARE YOU LOT LOOKING AT?!

IT SEEMS AS THOUGH THE LADY SHALL BE LOOKING TO COME AGAIN.

WHEN VALERIA COMES HERE, IT IS YOUR DUTY TO ENSURE HER SAFETY.

SHE'S THE STUBBORN SORT OF PERSON WHO, ONCE THEY START TALKING, WON'T PULL BACK.

SHE LOOKS SHY, HOWEVER SHE IS QUITE STOUT HEARTED.

IT'S A GOOD THING SHE DOESN'T RESEMBLE YOU! INSTEAD.

SHE REALLY IS LIKE HER MOTHER IN THAT REGARD...

SIR!

I'LL HAVE YOU CRUCIFIED!

SHE'S MY MOST PRECIOUS TREASURE.

IF ANYTHING WERE TO HAPPEN TO HER...

IF I AM UNABLE TO PERSUADE FATHER, WHATEVER SHALL I DO?

YET I DON'T REALLY BELIEVE IN MYSELF...

I SAID SUCH THINGS...

WILL IT ALL BE TOO LATE...?

...

THAT IS THE LAST TIME I'LL EVER SPEAK TO HIM...

IT'S TOO LATE, VALERIA.

NO, NO...

I AM FED UP WITH IT, THIS FAMILY, ROME, EVERYTHING!

MOTHER.

OUTSIDE IS TURMOIL, WHILE INSIDE IS TEDIUM. YET I'M FINALLY ABLE TO DO AWAY WITH IT ALL.

YOU SHOULD ALSO GO AND LIVE AS YOU LIKE.

WERE YOU TO GO, YOU WOULD BE WELCOME TO ACCOMPANY ME.

JUST WHERE IS MY PLACE IN THE WORLD? FATHER...

I CHOSE NEITHER, MOTHER...

FOUND YOU AT LAST!

RUSKA...

I WANTED TO LET YOU KNOW IF NOTHING ELSE. I'VE BEEN SEARCHING HIGH AND LOW FOR YOU.

YESTERDAY I FINALLY ENLISTED, VALERIA.

I COULD BARELY RECOGNISE YOU...

WHAT WITH THE MAGNIFICENT COSTUME YOU HAVE ON!

FROM THE DAY AFTER TOMORROW, I'LL BEGIN WORK AS THE LOWEST RANKED OF THE GUARDS AT THE PALACE.

I'LL BE ISSUED MY FORMAL NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT TOMOROW.

WAAH! CONGRATULATIONS RUSKA!

WHAT'S WRONG?

EH...?

T...

TRY YOUR BEST...

IT SEEMS, JUST A LITTLE IMPOSING...

NO WAY! LIKE THAT'D HAPPEN.

CAN'T YOU JUST CONTINUE TO COME TO MY HOUSE AS YOU'VE DONE TILL NOW?

...

FROM NOW ON...

WHAT?

BUT...

B...

EVERYONE AT HOME WOULD GIVE YOU A WARM WELCOME...

WE WON'T REALLY BE ABLE TO MEET WILL WE?

IT REALLY DOES SEEM AS THOUGH IT'S DONE BETWEEN THEM...

IT'S MY PARENTS...

YES...

IS THAT SO...

THAT'S WHY...

YOU SHOULD COME TO MY HOUSE TODAY.

LOOK LIKE AN IDIOT.

YOU'VE WAITED SO LONG FOR THIS DAY, YET I...

I... I'M SORRY FOR SUCH GLOOMY TALK.

LUCRETIA'S WAITING TOO.

WE'RE THROWING A LITTLE CELEBRATION.

MASTER, AND ROXXANE WILL ALSO BE COMING.

AFTER ALL, YOU'RE LIKE SISTERS...

IF I DON'T BRING YOU ALONG SHE'LL BE UPSET.

I WON'T EVEN LOSE TO ADULTS ANYMORE.

THERE'S ONLY ONE PERSON LEFT BEFORE ME!

I'VE FINALLY ENLISTED! THAT'S WHY...

VALERIA.

SISTERS EH...

THAT'S NICE...

I'D LIKE YOU TO MARRY ME!

PLEASE, WOULD YOU BECOME MY WIFE?

ARE YOU REALLY...

OKAY WITH ME, RUSKA?

IT'S OBVIOUS WHY.

YOU DON'T WANT TO...?

NO, I'M JUST SURPRISED.

LET'S LIVE TOGETHER...

LET'S STAY TOGETHER FOREVER.

YOU'LL... DEFINITELY STAND BY ME.

SO YOU'RE SAYING YES?!

ALRIGHT, WE SHOULD LET EVERYONE KNOW!

I'LL ALWAYS BRING YOU HAPPINESS...

I'LL TREASURE YOU, VALERIA.

IF I'M INJURED, I GET BETTER!

WHAT ARE THESE SHACKLES EVEN MEANT TO BE EH?!

I WON'T LOSE TO SOMEONE LIKE RUSKA AGAIN...!

I WILL BECOME STRONGER!

DAMN IT, NO MATTER WHAT I TRY IT'S HARD!

WAAH!

TO FIGHT WITH MY LEGS IMPAIRED LIKE MASTER...

WAS HE TELLING ME TO STOP MOVING MY FEET WHILE FIGHTING?

CREAK

CREAK

I DON'T GET IT...

I JUST DON'T GET IT, MASTER...

YOUR CHIN MAY BE BROKEN, BUT YOU'LL FIND A WAY TO EAT IT.

LICK IT UP, UNLESS YOU WANNA STARVE!

HERE'S YOUR FOOD!

ズズ…

WHERE IS HE?

THAT BASTARD...?

GET UP, DIOGENES!

YOU GOT CARRIED AWAY, LET THIS BE A PAINFUL LESSON.

THOUGH HE'S IN A SEPARATE GAOL, SO YOU WON'T MEET.

ZAFAR WAS PLACED IN A SOLITARY CELL TOO.

HE WAS ONCE KNOWN AS THE STRONGEST SLAVE BOXER AFTER ALL!

YOU MADE FOR A CRAP OPPONENT.

I'LL KILL HIM.
ZAFAR OF NUMIDIA...
I'LL DEFINITELY KILL YOU...
CHAPTER XXVI: BONDS OF LOVE - END

拳闘暗黒伝CESTVS

セスタス

CHAPTER XXVII: CRITICAL POINT

THE SUN ROSE UP OVER THE WALL.

FRIGHTENED EYES LOOKED TO IT, AND CURSED.

WITH BOTH HANDS GRIPPING AT A FLEETING HOPE...

THE SLAVE BOXERS PRAYED AS THEY RAN.

TO ENSURE THEIR LIVES TOMORROW...

THEY CUT AWAY AT THEIR LIVES TODAY...

MIGUEL!

ジャラ

IS THAT YOU CESTVS...

ARE YOU ALRIGHT?

SO THIS IS AS FAR AS I CAN GO...

IF I CAN'T SEE THEN I CAN'T FIGHT.

SEEMS THAT I'VE TAKEN TOO MANY HITS. MY LEFT'S NOT EVEN HEALED YET!

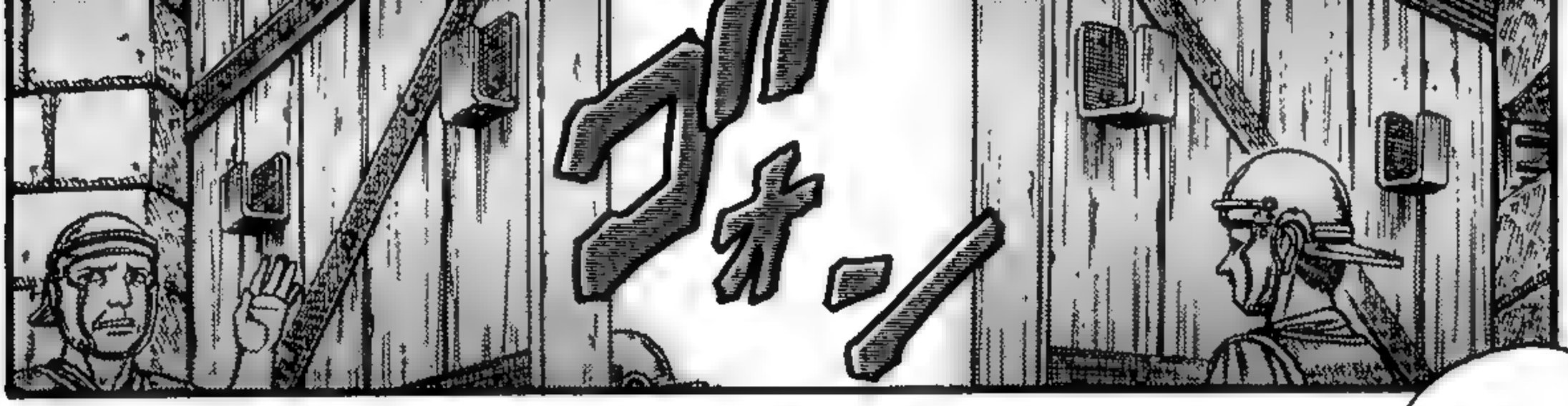
EVEN MY DAMN RIGHT EYE IS STARTING TO WORSEN...

IT'S AS YOU CAN SEE...

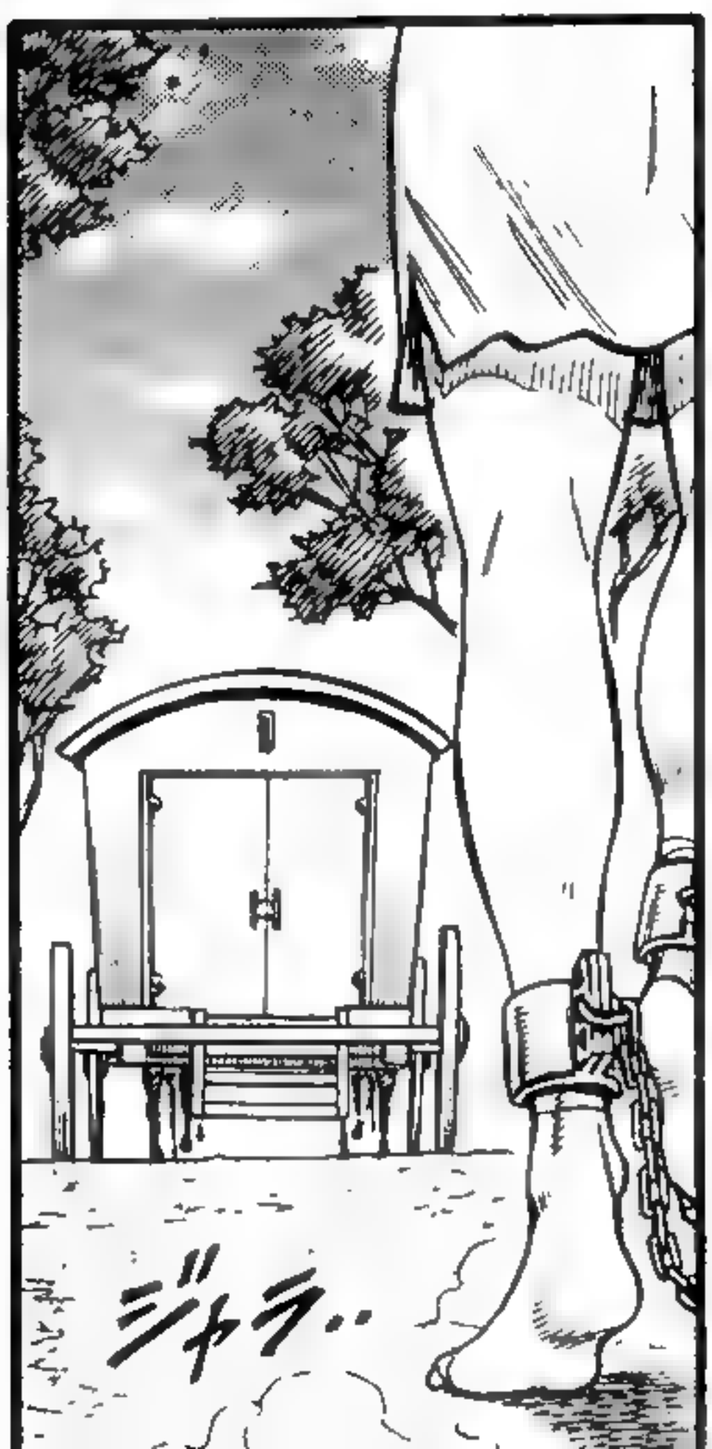
DON'T TRY AND CONSOLE ME...

PLEASE.

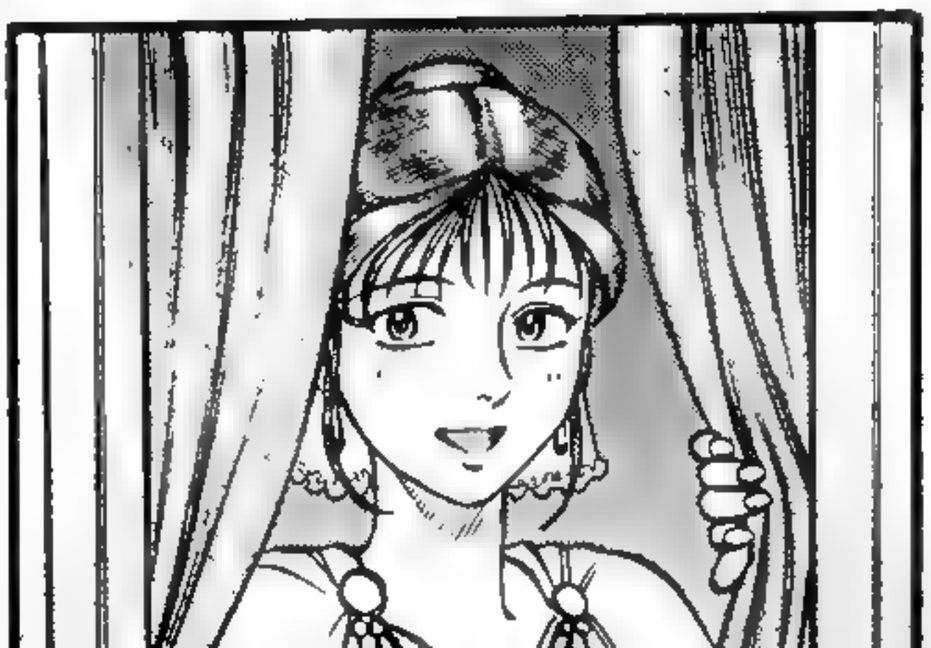
MI...



GEEZ, SHE'S CERTAINLY GOT IT EASY.
THE YOUNG LADY IS ALSO COMING OUT TODAY.


ジャラ..

VALERIA.



RUSKA...!

GOOD MORNING, CESTVS.

THERE'S SOMETHING WE NEED TO TALK ABOUT, CESTVS.

OKAY.

WHY THE HELL AM I SO SLOW...

OH YEAH, THEY HAD THAT SORT OF RELATIONSHIP DIDN'T THEY...

PLEASE, WITH THIS, LET ME BE FORGIVEN, CESTVS.

WHATEVER MAY HAVE TRANSPIRED BACK THEN...

I MUST APOLOGIZE FOR THAT MATTER BEFORE.

FOR SOMEONE LIKE ME YOU NEEDN'T...

IT'S FINE, RUSKA.

I TRULY AM...

I MISSED MY CHANCE.

WHILE I SHOULD HAVE COME AND APOLOGIZED TO YOU AS SOON AS POSSIBLE...

LOOK, MY ARM'S ALL BETTER ANYWAY!

IT WAS MY TOTAL LOSS BACK THEN.

YOU'RE STRONG.

I WAS SURE THAT YOU'D DESPISE ME.

THANK YOU CESTVS...

I DON'T WANT TO FIGHT YOU...

EVER AGAIN.

NOT AT ALL...

I WANTED TO LET YOU KNOW WITHOUT FAIL.

THERE'S SOMETHING YOU SHOULD HEAR, CESTVS.

IS THE SON OF A FAMED WARRIOR REALLY APOLOGIZING TO ME, A MERE SLAVE BOXER?

WHY ARE YOU SO MAGNANIMOUS IN RECOGNISING THE LOSS...

I'M DETERMINED TO STAND BY RUSKA.

WE'RE OFF TO TRY AND CONVINCE MY FATHER NOW.

WE'RE GETTING MARRIED!

IT'S ANOTHER WORLD...

I WISH YOU HAPPINESS...

THIS HAPPINESS...

YOU SEE WE'VE STILL KEPT IT A SECRET FROM FATHER.

I WANTED TO REALLY SURPRISE HIM.

CONGRAT-ULATIONS.

THIS RADIANCE...

FOR RUSKA IN ANYTHING...

I'M NO MATCH...

A WORLD BEYOND MY REACH...

YO.

LET'S GO.

YOU'RE A SLY ONE AIN'T YOU CESTVS.

HAVE YOU BEEN BUSY SUCKING UP TO VALENS' DAUGHTER?

YOU'RE SPECIAL AIN'T YOU.

OH, MY BAD.

TH... THAT'S NOT IT!

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT CHINO?!

IT WAS BACK THEN.

AH, I KNOW.

YOU CAN TALK LIKE THAT COS YOU'RE TALENTED!

DON'T TRY AND PREACH TO US!

THAT I WENT WRONG?

WHERE WAS IT...

WHY AM I ALONE?

I...

LIKE HELL IF I KNOW!

CLENCH

SINCE WHEN...

HAS THERE BEEN THIS FRICTION BETWEEN ME AND MY COMRADES?

I'M NOT LONELY.

I'M...

I HAD WANTED VALERIA TO MARRY SOMEONE OF AN OLDER MANNER...

HOWEVER...

I'VE COME TO A DECISION.

YOU'RE GRANTING US PERMISSION?!

THEN THAT MEANS...!

I MUST PUT VALERIA'S HAPPINESS FIRST.

LOST MY ONE AND ONLY DAUGHTER TO THIS YOUNG BOY.

CERTAINLY. IT SEEMS I'M BEATEN. I HAVE...

IT'S A PROMISE, LORD VALENS.

PLEASE LOOK AFTER HER WELL, RUSKA.

I WILL DEFINITELY BRING HER HAPPINESS.

THANK YOU SO MUCH FATHER!

I'M SO HAPPY, I LOVE YOU!

THIS IS THE BEST PARTNER I COULD HAVE ASKED FOR VALERIA, ISN'T IT!

FUFUFU.

HEAD OF THE EMPEROR'S PRAETORIAN GUARD!

THE SON OF THE...

SHE IS THE ONE WHO HOLDS THE TRUE POWER OF THE EMPEROR, NOT NERO!

THAT MAN IS A SUPPORTER OF THE EMPRESS DOWAGER, AGRIPPINA.

WITH THIS, I'LL HAVE A LINK TO THE EMPEROR HIMSELF.

YOU'VE CHOSEN A FINE PARTNER!

YOU'RE A GOOD CHILD VALERIA.

I WOULD NOT WISH TO DISPLEASURE THE BRIDE TO BE.

NOW, ONE MIGHT ONLY CALL IT A MINOR PART OF THE CELEBRATION...

HOWEVER, I SHALL GRANT THE SLAVE BOXERS ONE MONTH OF REST FROM FIGHTS.

WHAT A TRULY ACCOMPLISHED DAUGHTER!!

I'VE ALREADY MORE THAN ENOUGH TO COME...

REALLY?!

WE SHOULD GO AND TELL CESTVS!

WHAT WAS MEANT AS A DISPLAY OF COMPASSION CAME FAR TOO LATE.

THE WHEEL OF THE GODS WAS SPEEDING UP.

THE DARK PASSIONS OF THE TILL THEN SUPRESSED SLAVE BOXERS...

HAD LONG REACHED A CRITICAL POINT...

IT WAS ONLY A LITTLE, YET SOME SPILT OUT THROUGH AN OPENING.

SEARCHED FOR AN EXIT.

THAT FORCE WHICH SURPASSED TOLERANCE...

THEY HAD FINALLY FOUND IT...

THEIR RULER'S ALL IMPORTANT WEAK POINT!

BOTH YOUR PUBLIC AND PRIVATE LIVES WILL BE BUSY FROM NOW ON RUSKA.

SO...

WHAT IS IT THAT THE BRIDE TO BE DESIRES?

COULD YOU HELP ME OUT...

I'VE NO IDEA WHAT TO GET HER...

IT'S FINE. AT ANY RATE I'M OFF DUTY.

FOR HAVING YOU HELP ME WITH MY PRIVATE BUSINESS.

I'M SORRY MA'AM...

BUT IT SEEMS I WASTED MY TIME DRESSING UP JUST TO GO SHOPPING.

CLUCK

CLUCK

CLUCK

CLUCK

CLUCK

NO NO, IT REALLY SUITS THE LADY.

HE'S LOOKING FOR HIS BRIDE.

I FIGURED IT COULD BE A SPARKLING ITEM EH... HMM...

IT'S A SHAME THEN THAT IT'S NOT FOR ME.

THINK IT OVER AS MUCH AS YOU CAN, YOU LUCKY DOG!

MA'AM.

HOW ABOUT A RING WITH A PRECIOUS STONE?

WE'VE BEAUTIFUL SETS, THE PRIDE OF OUR CRAFTSMEN, IN WEALTH AND ABUNDANCE!

YOU LADY KILLER!

THE FINAL CLINCHER OF LOVE IS A SPARKLING TREASURE!

IT'D BE AROUND THREE MONTHS WAGES.

...

I'M SURE YOU TWO SHOULD BE TOGETHER.

I'M SORRY IT'S JUST...

RUSKA!

MA'AM..

HAVE YOU RUN INTO THE DEPUTY COMANNDER SINCE HIS RETURN TO THE COUNTRY?

WHAT MAKES YOU ASK SOMETHING LIKE THAT?

チャリ..

ARGH.

SHE'S MAD.

YES MA'AM.

YOU SHOULD WORRY ABOUT KNOWING...

EVERYTHING YOUR WIFE LIKES INSTEAD.

DID YOU HEAR
Oi...

SEEMS THE DAUGHTER'S GETTING MARRIED...
HUH, WHAT'S WITH THE AMNESTY?
MATCHES HAVE BEEN HALTED FOR A MONTH...
REALLY?!
HE'S HE NOW...

TO THINK, THE ONLY ONE COLD BLOODED VALENS WOULD BE SO KIND WITH WOULD BE HIS DAUGHTER..
HEH

WE'LL HAVE OUR SECRET WEAPON.

ALL WE NEED IS THE GIRL...

THEN THEY WON'T BE ABLE TO DO A THING.

!

WHAT'S WITH THIS TALK?!

THIS TIME WE'LL ALL GATHER... ALSO...

FOR REAL...?

THE ADULTS ARE WILLING TO GO.

EH?!

COULD THIS BE OUR CHANCE?

AAH...

THIS IS THE BEST CHANCE WE HAVE...

AND THEY WANT TO TAKE VALERIA AS A HOSTAGE...!

THEY'RE DESERTING... NO, THEY'RE LOOKING TO CARRY OUT A REBELLION?!

WHAT SHOULD I DO, RUSHA...?!

WHAT SHOULD I DO, MASTER...?!

THIS REALLY IS SOMETHING WHICH I CAN'T STOP BY MYSELF!

BOWF

THUMP.

BOWF

BOWF

BOWF

BOWF

CHAPTER XXVII: CRITICAL POINT - END

THAT'S NOT WHY I'M HERE MASTER.

GO HOME, CESTVS.

DON'T REMOVE THOSE SHACKLES UNTIL YOU'VE SOLVED THE PROBLEM EITHER.

IT'S BEEN THREE WHOLE DAYS...

CESTVS セスタス

CHAPTER XXVIII: EXPLOSION

WHAT IS IT THEN?

COME A BIT CLOSER...

WHY DID YOU COME HERE?

...

WHAT SHOULD I DO MASTER?

ARE YOU CERTAIN ABOUT THAT?

ぎぃ ぎぃ ぎぃ

YOU MUSTN'T INVOLVE YOURSELF WITH VALENS' DAUGHTER AT ALL!

WITHOUT BEING CAUGHT UP BY IT, SIMPLY OBSERVE EVENTS.

EH?

DON'T DO A THING.

ギャラ…

BUT MASTER!

DO NOT TAKE ROME LIGHTLY.

THIS PLAN WILL CERTAINLY FAIL.

HOW LONG ARE YOU GONNA TALK FOR?

TIME'S UP, GET OUT!

LISTEN TO ME!

THE PRESENT SITUATION IS EVEN MORE TERRIFYING AND DANGEROUS THAN YOU THINK!

IT... IT'LL FAIL?

GOT IT?

YOU ABSOLUTELY MUSTN'T MOVE ON IMPULSE!

HOLD FAST, AND ONLY LOOK TO PROTECT YOURSELF!

...

WAS HE TELLING ME TO JUST LET IT ALL PASS BY?!

WITHOUT DOING ANYTHING, JUST BE SILENT...

IT WAS REPORTED THAT THEY WISHED TO TIDY THE GROUNDS FOR THE YOUNG LADY.

I GRANTED THEM FREE TIME, BUT WHAT EXACTLY ARE THE SLAVE BOXERS DOING?

IS THERE STILL ANYONE IN THE DUNGEON?

HENCE WHY THEY SUDDENLY STARTED CLEANING.

I GUESS THEY WANTED TO SHOW THEIR GRATITUDE...

FUFU... SEEMS THAT EVEN SLAVES CAN HOLD GRATITUDE IN THEIR HEARTS.

THEY CAUSED A DISTURBANCE SEVERAL DAYS BACK AND WERE PLACED IN SEPARATE, SOLITARY CELLS.

TWO MEN, ZAFAR AND DIOGENES...

THEY'VE NOT MADE ANY MOVES YET...

IS VALERIA!

I KNEW IT, THEIR AIM...

ACTING OBEDIENTLY...

INDEED WHILE SEEMINGLY...

VALERIA TO COME.

THEY'RE WAITING FOR...

THERE SHOULD HAVE BEEN NO ISSUE WITH SUCH AN ACTION...

I'M IN A GOOD MOOD TODAY.

RELEASE THEM BOTH.

YES SIR.

IF YOU LOOK CAREFULLY, THEY'RE INDIRECTLY GATHERING...

AROUND THE PATH WHICH THE COACHES TAKE AREN'T THEY!

THE GUARDS ON DUTY ARE...

COMPLETELY UNPREPARED TOO.

AN ATTEMPT AT ESCAPE HAD FAILED ONLY RECENTLY...

THEY'D NEVER DREAM THAT ANYONE WOULD TRY IT AGAIN TODAY...

WITHOUT BEING CAUGHT UP BY IT, SIMPLY OBSERVE EVENTS.

IT'S CERTAINLY TRUE THAT THERE'S NO BETTER CHANCE THAN NOW.

BUT I DON'T WANT VALERIA TO ENCOUNTER A HORRIBLE FATE!

YOU MUSTN'T INVOLVE YOURSELF WITH VALENS' DAUGHTER AT ALL!

GOT IT?

IN THAT CASE...

YOU ABSOLUTELY MUSTN'T MOVE ON IMPULSE!

HOLD FAST, AND ONLY LOOK TO PROTECT YOURSELF!

WHAT CRIME DID SHE COMMIT?

ROCCO...!

WHAT WOULD YOU DO...?

WHAT SHOULD I DO?

ゴ
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ゴ
ゴ
ゴ
ゴ
THE GATES ARE OPENING!
SHE'S HERE!
I CAN'T JUST LET IT PASS BY ME!
IT'S NO GOOD, MASTER...

SHE'S A FRIEND OF MINE!

A TRUST-WORTHY FRIEND!

WHAT'S HE DOING?

THAT'S ZAFAR'S PUPIL.

THE BRAT'S STOPPED THE COACH.

LOOK.

WE'VE GOT 'EM SURROUNDED!

THIS IS UNEXPECTED, THOUGH IT DOESN'T MATTER.

CAN I BE OF SOME USE TO YOU?

WHAT'S THE HURRY, CESTVS?

...

HE'S BEEN STATIONED AT THE PALACE FOR THE FIRST TIME.

RUSKA STARTS WORK TODAY.

ISN'T... RUSKA WITH YOU?!

MY LADY!

THIS IS FINE, I CAN WALK FROM HERE.

SH...

HE WAS REALLY KEEN...

I'M ALONE THEN!

FU...

SHIT!

THUMP

THUMP

THUMP

THUMP

THUMP

THUMP

THUMP

THEN HE'D BE ABLE TO CUT HIS WAY THROUGH THIS DILEMNA...

WERE THE QUICK WITTED, TALENTED RUSKA HERE...

I CAN'T DO A THING!

ME HERE AND WITH THESE CHAINS ON...

YET THERE'S ONLY...

WHAT DO I DO?!

THE ENTIRE AREA IS FULL OF ENEMIES!

LIKE THIS, THINGS WILL DEFINITELY...!

IS THERE ANY ESCAPE ROUTE?

THUD

WHAT'S MORE, TONIGHT...

ALL THREE OF MY FAMILY MEMBERS WILL BE TOGETHER AFTER SO LONG.

IT'S USELESS!

I'M TOO LATE!

QUICKLY!

THE COACH...

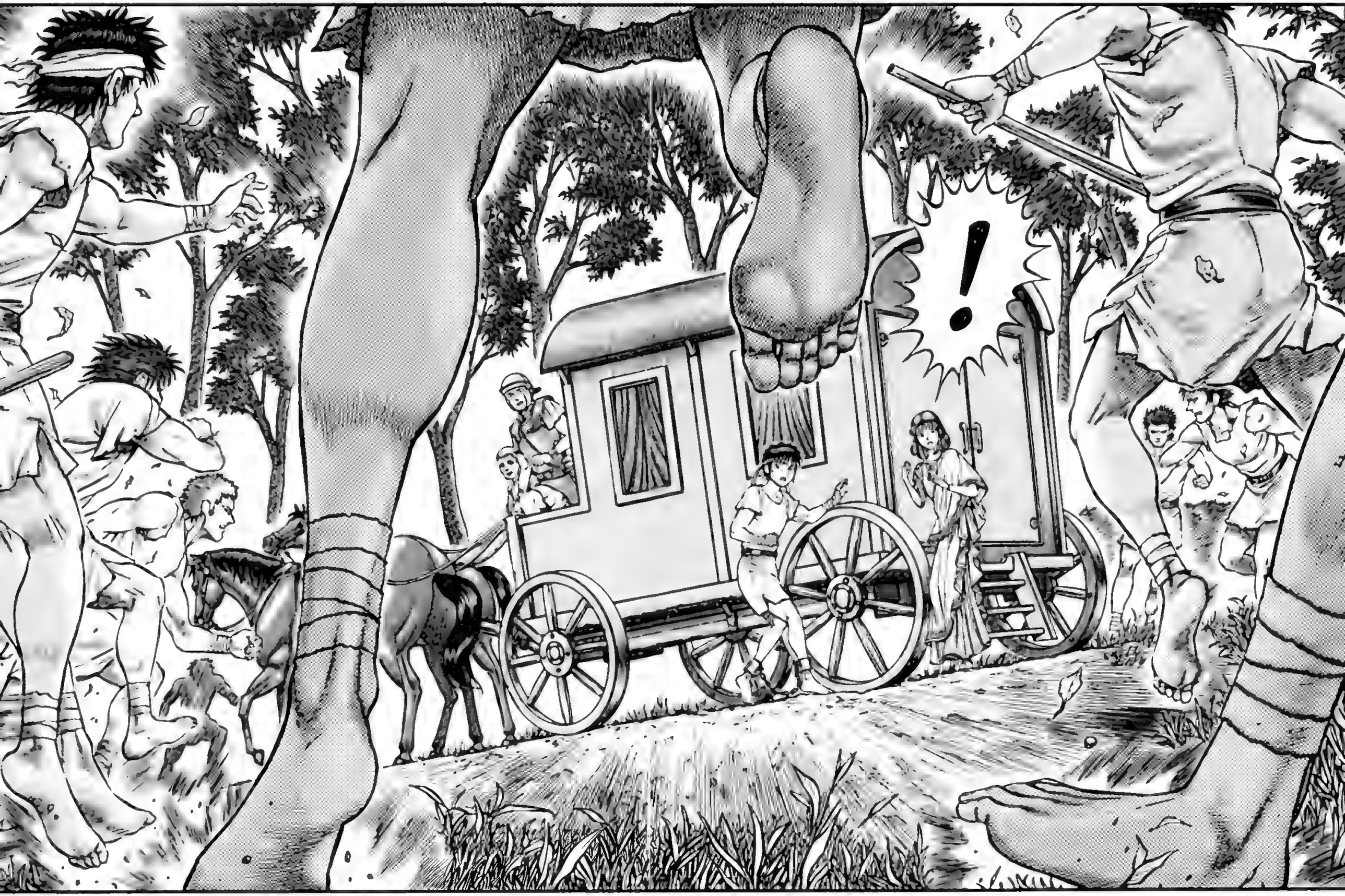
IT'S TRULY WHAT I'VE DREAMED OF...

TO HAVE MY PARENTS BACK TALKING TO ONE ANOTHER...

EH?

GET ON THE COACH!

WHAT'S WRONG, WHY THE SCARED FACE?



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B...

BASTARDS!

KYAAAAA!

STOP IT!

THIS BRAT!

IS HE TRYING TO GET IN THE WAY?!

VALERIA!

HM?

TRY AND BETRAY US WOULD YA!

SHITTY BRAT!

114

ZAFAR!

JUST LEAVE THIS ONE OUT OF IT.

IN YOUR INSUR-RECTION FROM THE START.

I'VE HAD NO INTE-REST...

MASTER!

B... B...

FEEL FREE TO RAMPAGE TO YOUR HEART'S CONTENT.

BASTARD, YOU LOOKING TO BETRAY US TOO?!

BUT...

I THOUGHT I TOLD YOU NOT TO WORRY ABOUT THAT.

VALERIA WAS...!

DON'T GO ALONG WITH THIS FOOLISHNESS!

COME, CESTVS!

WAIT MASTER...!

HRAA!

HAVE A TASTE OF THAT YOU MEDDLER!

MASTER!

THAT SHOULD CHEER YOU TWO UP!

MASTER...!

FOLD IN YOUR LIMBS! CEETVS...

NEXT IS VALENS!

WE'LL LEAVE 'EM LIKE THAT...

LET'S GO!

PROTECT...

YOUR FISTS...!

THEY SURE WERE ANNOYING...

AFTER ALL I...

MASTER!

I'M SORRY MASTER...

MA...

YOUR FISTS ARE FINE?

YOU'RE NOT HURT RIGHT?

KU... KU... KU...

IT STINKS.

IT STINKS.

!

IT STINKS OF MY PREY.

ZAFAR OF NUMIDIA...

I'VE FOUND YOUUU...

MY REVEEENGE!

LET'S BEGIIIN...

CHAPTER XXVIII: EXPLOSION
- END

I CAN'T RUN AWAY...

MOVE, BRAT!

I'LL KILL YA!

I...

I HAVE TO DO IT!

AT A TIME LIKE THIS...

OF ALL THE THINGS TO HAPPEN...

拳闘暗黒伝 CESTVS セスタス

CHAPTER XXIX: BITTER FLAMES

CESTVS!

AND THEN GO AND SAVE VALERIA!

I'LL TAKE THIS GUY DOWN...

OH YEAH, HE WAS YOUR DISCIPLE WASN'T HE?

IN THAT CASE, I'LL KILL HIM TOO.

UGAAAARGH!

Z''Z''

Z''Z''

Z''Z''

YOU WANT US TO SLIT YA DAUGHTER'S THROAT?!

OI, OI, OPEN ALL OF THE JAILS!

RELEASE EVERYONE'S SHACKLES!

COME ON OUT, VALENS!

L... LET'S NOT BE RASH!

CALM DOWN NOW!

フル フル フル フル

F... FATH...

VALERIA!

STOP ACTING IN SUCH A FOOLISH MANNER...!

P...

PLEASE, STOP THIS...

WORRIED ABOUT YA CUTE LITTLE TREASURE THEN?

WHAT A MISERABLE FACE YOU GOT THERE EH...

MASTER VALENS...

IF YOU WANT HER BACK, FIRST PREPARE A COACH FOR US.

WELL? AIN'T YOU GONNA RESPOND?!

IYAAAAAA!

STOP IT, I GET IT SO PLEASE, STOP!

THIS... IS... THE BEST, AIN'T IT?!

THIS FEELING OF DOMINATING SOMEONE'S LIFE!

WE'RE GONNA LET YA GET A GOOD TASTE OF ALL THIS, VALENS!

AND THERE'S STILL MUCH MORE TO COME!

WE'RE GONNA SHOW YOU OUR GRATITUDE!

BASTARD, TAKE A GOOD LOOK AT THIS!

IT'S ALL GONNA END UP AS ASH!

LOOT! KILL!

WE'RE FREE!

CRUSH! SMASH!

SET IT ON FIRE!

ハァ

ハァ

ハァ

COME ON THEN, BRAT!

EVEN IF YA BURST INTO TEARS, IT'LL BE TOO LATE!

フェ

フェ

フェ

I'M GONNA SMASH THAT DAINTY HEAD O' YOURS.

I'VE GOT CHAINS ON MY FEET!

HE'S NOT CHARGING IN LIKE BEFORE DUE TO HIS INJURIES, BUT...

DEATH!

AM I GONNA DIE HERE...?!

THERE'S NO DOUBT ABOUT IT, IF I'M CAUGHT I'LL BE KILLED!

ドクン…

ドクン…

CAN I REALLY WIN IN THIS CONDITION AGAINST THAT MONSTER OVER THERE?!

ミ″リ..

ミ″リ..

ズボ″..

I'M STILL INEXPERIENCED IN BOXING...

THUMP

THUMP

THUMP

THUMP

DON'T SHAKE!

FUCK!

UNLESS I DEFEAT HIM.

I CAN'T TAKE ONE STEP FORWARD FROM HERE...

THUMP

THUMP

THUMP

THUMP

LIKE THIS I'LL JUST END UP FOOD FOR HIM!

I CAN'T, I'M JUST DROWNING IN FEAR!

I HAVE TO SAVE VALERIA!

CHACK

CHACK

CHACK

CHACK

CHACK

CHACK

CHACK

CHACK

MOVE, MOVE!

WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU LOOKING AT?!

WAAAAH!

!

VALERIA!

URGH.

KIY.

MASTER BROKE HIS CHIN DIDN'T HE!

DID IT WORK?!

I HAD ARBITRARILY DECIDED THAT...

WERE I TO GET CAUGHT, IT'D BE THE END. HOWEVER...

WAIT, THAT'S IT.

DON'T PULL AWAY CESTVS!

THIS GUY MAINLY FIGHTS BY GRAPPLING HIS OPPONENTS...

HE'LL BE WITHIN MY ATTACK RANGE RIGHT UP UNTIL HE GETS ME, WON'T HE!

THERE ISN'T THAT BIG A DIFFERENCE IN OUR ATTACK RANGE!

YOU'LL LOSE YOUR CHANCE OF VICTORY!

THE FIRST MOVE!

I'LL MAKE...

HOW WOULD I GO ABOUT STRIKING WITH MY STRONG RIGHT FIST?

THINK! IT'LL BE NO GOOD ONLY FIRING A SINGLE SHOT.

SWISH

SWISH

SWISH

SWISH

THERE'S JUST ONE TARGET.

I'VE ONLY ONE SHOT AT VICTORY.

AND THE ANGLE TO HIT AT?

WHAT ABOUT MY POSITION...?

HOW ABOUT "USING" MY LEFT TO TRY AND CONNECT?

TCH.

TEAT.

HERE!

GUAAAARGH!

GET DOOOWN!

FINISH IT!

ZIN ZIN

I WAS ABLE TO GO UP AGAINST A DIFFERENT SORT OF FIGHTER!

ﾊｱ

ﾌﾝﾇｯ

ﾌﾝﾇｯ

MY FISTS AREN'T POWERLESS!

I WON!

I WON...

ﾋｸ.

ﾋｸ.

ﾋｸ...

HAD I TRIED TO FIGHT AT RANGE, I WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN ABLE TO GRASP VICTORY.

THESE CHAINS PREVENTED ME FROM RUNNING AWAY.

WAIT A MINUTE, VALERIA!

YOU GET A PASSING MARK!

SEEMS YOU FINALLY GOT IT, CESTVS.

YOU TOOK A CREATIVE APPROACH TO THE FIGHT JUST NOW.

MAS-TER...

I...

IT'S USELESS, JUST GIVE UP.

WHAT CAN YOU DO WITHOUT EVEN KNOWING WHERE YOU'RE GOING?!

DO YOU THINK YOU CAN CATCH A COACH WITH THOSE CHAINS ON?

ゴゴゴ

WE CAN ONLY LEAVE THE DECISION NOW TO THE DIE OF THE GODS.

YOU'VE NO TECHNIQUE WHICH WOULD LET YOU SUPPRESS THOSE FIERCE, HELLISH FIRES.

IT'S TOO LATE TO DO ANYTHING.

YOU WOULD DO WELL TO ENGRAVE THIS INTO YOUR HEART CESTVS.

NEVER FORGET THIS TERRIFYING SPECTACLE.

THIS IS NOT DIVINE JUDGEMENT.

VALENS ACCUMULATED THIS DEBT OF HATRED HIMSELF.

THEY'LL NOT BE ALLOWED TO GET AWAY WITH A HOSTAGE.

I CAN'T LET YOU GET INVOLVED AND RUIN YOUR OWN CHANCES.

...!

DO YOU THINK YOU CAN SAVE HER ALONE?!

DON'T BE SO CONCEITED!

IT WAS MY FAULT THAT VALERIA...

BUT MASTER...

I THOUGHT I TOLD YOU ONLY TO LOOK OUT FOR YOURSELF!

YOU'RE 10 YEARS TO YOUNG TO BE TRYING TO PROTECT OTHERS.

WERE HERE EH CESTVS.

SO YOU...

I COULDN'T RUN AWAY ALONE...

I CAN'T. MASTER'S LEG IS TOO BAD.

EVERYONE'S HEADING TO LEAVE HERE.

MIGUEL.

THOUGH THAT'S WHAT I LIKE ABOUT YOU.

HOW MANY CHANCES HAVE YOU HAD TO ESCAPE UP TILL NOW?

YOU SHOULD COME WITH US.

I'M WAGERING IT ALL ON THIS ESCAPE, CESTVS.

WERE ROCCO STILL ALIVE, HE'D SURELY...

WE WERE JUST A BIT JEALOUS...

IT'S NOT THAT WE HATED YOU OR ANYTHING.

OF YOUR TALENT.

WELL, BRO...

DON'T DIE.

STOP THIS!

DON'T THROW AWAY YOUR FUTURES!

YOU CAN'T ESCAPE FROM ROME!

ALL I CAN DO IS PRAY FOR YOU.

EVERYONE, PLEASE ESCAPE...

AND ALSO, THAT VALERIA...

SOMEHOW MAKES IT OUT UNHARMED.

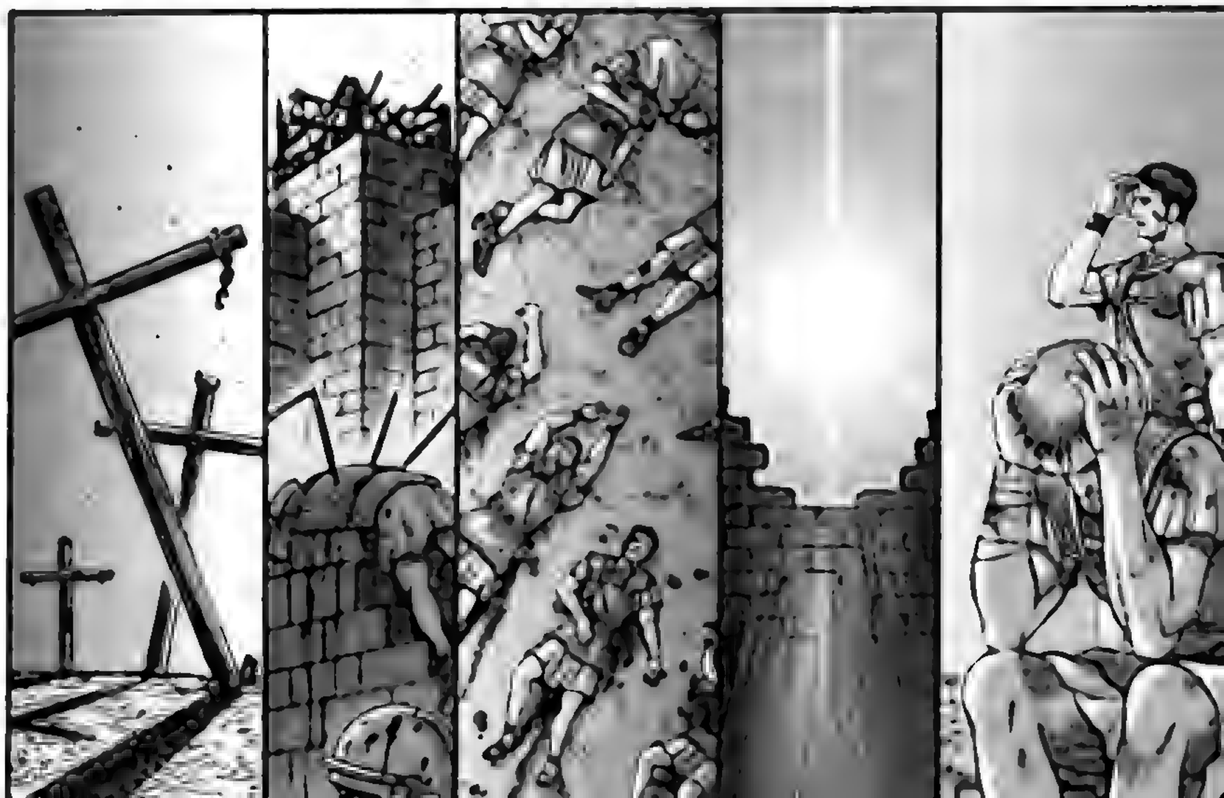
CHAPTER XXIX: BITTER FLAMES - END

学園暗黒伝CESTVS

セスタス

CHAPTER XXX: LAMENTATION

VALERIA



DIOGENES DISAPPEARED.

EVERYONE'S CONSCIOUSNESS SEEMED TO HAVE TURNED BACK AND FLED.

THERE WAS NO SENSE OF FREEDOM.

THE FIRES BURNED UNTIL MORNING.

EVERYTHING WAS REDUCED TO CINDER.

SOMETHING'S COMING!

LORD VALEEENS!

IT LOOKS LIKE THE MILITARY...

THE MILIT-ARY?

I PRESUME THAT YOU ARE JULIANUS VALENS.

ROMAN VIGILES*, CENTURION VINDEX OF THE THIRD COHORT.

?

* A SECURITY FORCE WHICH PATROLLED WITHIN THE CITY OF ROME AT NIGHT, DEALING WITH CRIMES, FIRES AND THE LIKE.

TERRIBLE MISMANAGEMENT HAS BROUGHT ABOUT A SLAVE REVOLT. TELL ME, HOW IN THE WORLD DO YOU INTEND TO MAKE AMENDS FOR THIS?

WHILE HOLDING THE POSITION OF AEDILIS* YOUR...

AND BROUGHT ABOUT A RIOT!

LAST NIGHT THE ESCAPED SLAVES MADE IT TO ROME ITSELF...

MY... DAUGHTER?

WAS SHE RELEASED UNHARMED?

YET... WHAT OF VALERIA?

THERE WERE INCIDENTS OF ROBBERY, RAPE AND ARSON...

INDEED THERE WERE NO FEWER THAN 50 VICTIMS!

30...!

* THEIR DUTY INVOLVES THE MANAGEMENT OF ROADS AND WATER SUPPLIES, PROVISION OF GRAIN AND THE STAGING OF PUBLIC EVENTS.

I AM MORE THAN PREPARED TO COVER THE COST OF COMPENSATION!

SIR!

LET'S GO!

CONFIRMATION?

...

THAT IS ALL.

ONCE WE'VE YOUR CONFIRMATION, THEY'LL BE RETURNED AND PRESENTED TO THE MAGISTRATE.

ﾐｭﾙ..

ｺﾞｺﾞｺﾞ

EVERYONE WAS KILLED, NOT ONE WAS LEFT ALIVE...

IT WAS A MASSACRE!

TO NOT TAKE ROME LIGHTLY.

THIS IS WHY I SAID...

THEY'RE DEAD.

UH... GUH.

THE...

UH...

THEY'RE ALL DEAD!

THOSE LOT ARE OF NO IMPORTANCE!

OF NO IMPORTANCE...?!

HE SAID THEY'RE...

TELL ME, WHAT HAPPENED TO MY DAUGHTER?!

LIKE BUGS...!

THEY WERE SLAUGHTERED...

WHERE ARE YOU GOING CESTVS?

YOUR FAULT, ISN'T IT?!

IT'S ALL...

I'LL LEAVE YOU HALF DEAD!

I WON'T FORGIVE YOU!

WAIT!

EVEN IF IT'S ONLY A LITTLE OF OUR PAIN THEN...

I DON'T CARE WHAT THE HELL HAPPENS ANYMORE!

JUST TO MAKE SURE, WE'D LIKE YOU TO CONFIRM YOURSELF...

LORD VALENS.

TH...
THERE'S...

IT CAN'T
BE...

NO...

WAY...

THAT...

TH... THIS IS... FAR TOO...

CRUEL.

BY THE TIME WE BROKE IN, IT WAS TOO LATE...

THE SLAVE BOXERS HAD HOLED THEMSELVES UP IN A PRIVATE HOUSE WHEN THEY TURNED TO DESPAIR...

SHE WAS SUCH THAT EVEN THE PHYSICIAN'S POWER WAS OF NO AVAIL.

GODS, THIS ISN'T WHAT I PRAYED FOR...

WILL IT REALLY END IN THIS TRAGIC WAY?!

THAT...?

WHO IS...

M... MY POOR DEAR VALERIA...

WHY DID THIS HAPPEN TO SUCH A KIND CHILD...?

I DON'T RECOGNIZE HIM.

IS IT VALENS?

JUST BEFORE... HER MARR-IAGE...

WHY?!

HE HAD NO ISSUE KILLING CHILD SLAVE BOXERS...

DAMN IT, DON'T FUCK WITH ME!

THE BASTARD WOULD EVEN LAUGH WHILE DOING SO!

I CAN'T STRIKE HIM, ROCCO...

FU...

FUU.

YET I CAN'T... STRIKE HIM NOW.

GUH.

...

EH...

IT SEEMS THAT TROUBLE IS COMING...

OUT OF MY WAY!
IF YOU HEAD OVER THERE THEN...
YOU MUSTN'T RUSKA!
RUSKA!
CESTVS!
VALERIA...
WHERE'S VALERIA...?!

THIS HAS
TO BE A
LIE...

NO
WAY!

THAT WE'D LIVE TOGETHER...

I'D PROMISED...

THAT I'D MAKE SURE YOU WERE HAPPY...

OPEN YOUR EYES...

MY BRIDE.

...!

VALERIA. MY DEAR...

IT'S THE CHARM I GAVE HER.

SHE'S HOLDING SOMETHING...

!

...

IT SEEMS IT WAS VERY IMPORTANT TO HER...

SHE WAS HOLDING IT TIGHTLY WHEN SHE STIFFENED FROM RIGOR MORTIS.

SO I'D GOTTEN YOU A MORE FITTING GIFT...

IT HAD TROUBLED ME VALERIA...

I COULD'VE ASKED FOR.

THIS IS THE BEST THING...

JUST AS I THOUGHT.

IT REALLY SUITS YOU, VALERIA.

I'M SORRY.

I WASN'T ABLE TO BE THERE FOR YOU.

ON THE DAY I BECAME A GUARD...

I COULDN'T PROTECT YOU.

CHAPTER XXX: LAMENTATION - END

!AAAAAYK

AAAA

MUHEHEHE. IT STINKS, IT STINKS.

IT STINKS OF A WOMAN.

NOOO...

STOP...!

UH?!

!

STOP IT!

OH.

HAAH?!

HAH?!

スゥ..

SOME-OOONE!

OH.

WHO THE HEEELL ARE YOOOU?!

ﾐﾐﾐ

ﾐﾐﾐ!

LET ME TELL YOU.

CRACK.

BUT I'M... SCARED!

DON'T THINK POORLY OF ME FOR LEAVING YOU.

I'M IN A HURRY.

TAKE THIS.

EEK...

拳闘暗黒伝CESTVS

セスタス

CHAPTER XXXI: BREAKDOWN

IF I HAD JUST HAD VALERIA RETURN TO THE COACH AND THEN SET OFF...

IF I HADN'T STOPPED THE COACH BACK THEN...

THIS IS MY FAULT!

SHE MIGHT HAVE BEEN SAVED!

IT'S AS THOUGH I KILLED HER!

AAAH...

WITH MY SHALLOW, IDIOTIC ACTIONS...

UH... AH...

GUH... UH.

SHE COULD HAVE BEEN SAVED, YET...

UH...

YOU DID A FINE JOB MUSTERING UP YOUR COURAGE AND TACKLING THAT CHALLENGE BY YOURSELF.

YOU FOUGHT ALONE FOR HER SAKE.

STOP BLAMING YOURSELF.

CESTVS.

UH...

UH...

UH...

YOU ARE NOT GUILTY.

YOU COULD HAVE STAYED SILENT AND SIMPLY LET THINGS PASS YOU BY, YET YOU DELIBERATELY CHOSE NOT TO TAKE THE EASY, COMFORTABLE PATH.

THEN ONE DAY YOU MAY...

AT LEAST BE ABLE TO PROTECT THOSE WHO ARE IMPORTANT TO YOU.

IF YOU FIND IT VEXING, THEN BECOME STRONGER CESTVS.

MAST-EEER...

うあ

あああ...

MA...

LISTEN TO ME RUSKA.

LET'S WIPE AWAY THE DIRT...

AND TIDY HER UP A BIT.

IT WOULD BE A SHAME TO LEAVE VALERIA IN SUCH A POOR STATE.

YET YOU ALWAYS LOVE TO STAY CLEAN AND PRETTY, AAH...

YOU REALLY ARE... COVERED IN DIRT... EH.

THERE'S NOTHING ELSE FOR IT...

HAH...

OKAY?

EH...

AAAH.

AH.

...

I'M BEAT... BUT A CHANGE OF CLOTHES... WHAT SHOULD WE DO?

WELL, MA'AM?

AAH, STILL...

P...

PLEASE, MA'AM...

ALRIGHT, TELL ME.

I'VE A MESS-AGE!

THEY'RE ALL CHILDREN!

THEY DIDN'T JOIN IN WITH THE INSURRECTION. INSTEAD THEY SEEM TO HAVE SNUCK INTO A PRIVATE HOUSE IN THE OUTSKIRTS...

AND HIDDEN THEMSELVES AWAY IN AN OUTHOUSE.

THE DETACHED FORCE HAS SECURED A GROUP OF SURVIVING SLAVE BOXERS!

THEY'VE JUST ARRIVED NOW.

EVERYONE!

E...

はぁ…

YOU CAN GO OVER TO THEM, CESTVS.

YES SIR!

...

IT'S ENOUGH FOR ME...

IS ENOUGH...

THEM BEING ALIVE...

...

...

ヒク！

THERE WERE... SURVIVORS...?

THUMP.

THEY SURVIVED?!

THUMP.

WHY DID THEY...

THUMP.

THUMP.

WHY?

THUMP.

SURVIVE...?!

I'LL... K...

RUSKA?

...

THEY KILLED...

THUMP.

I...

WILL...

MY VALERIA!

I'LL...

RUSKA!

KILL THEM!

IT WASN'T THEM!

PLEASE CALM DOWN RUSKA!

THOSE CHILDREN WERE...

RUSKA!

ﾋｭｰﾝ

?!

EH?!

ﾌﾜｱ

GUAARGH!

ドゴォ

オオォ

EH?

WHAT? WHAT THE

THEIR LIVES SHOULD BE FORFEIT!

THEY'RE THE ENEMIES OF MY WIFE VALERIA!

W...

WAIT, YOU'VE GOT IT WRONG RUSKA!

PERISH!

LADY!

PLEASE WAIT!

WE DIDN'T KILL THE...

EEK!

STOP IT!

STOP IT, RUSKA!

RUSKAAA!

GYAAAA!

STOP IT!

STOP IT ALREADY!

THEY'RE DEAD RUSKA!

THOSE WHO KILLED VALERIA ARE ALREADY LONG DEAD!

THEY WERE ALL EXECUTED!

WHAT THE HELL...

ARE YOU DOING?!

...

SHE THOUGHT ABOUT WHAT SHE COULD DO FOR YOU WITH GREAT... CARE...

SHE...

VALERIA WAS GREATLY TROUBLED BY YOUR CIRCUMSTANCES...

AND YET THIS IS HOW YOU REPAY HER!

SHE EVEN OPPOSED HER FATHER TO TRY AND HELP YOU LOT!

YOU SHOULD BE CURSED!

YOU DAMN FOOLISH BRUTES...

TRY AND GIVE VALERIA BACK!

AND WHAT WAS THE RESULT?!

IS THAT MEANT TO HELP CONSOLE ME?!

I TRIED TO HELP HER...

I TRIED TO PROTECT HER!

GIVE HER BACK!

ズ〃ミ.

IT SEEMS I'M LATE.

SILENCE!

YOU'RE UNSIGHTLY, RUSKA!

ENOUGH!

STOP THIS CESTVS!

110

MA...

カ!!

!

THE SORT OF GIRL WHO WOULD LONG FOR REVENGE?

WAS YOUR BRIDE...

...

BELIEVE I WILL BEAR A GRUDGE AGAINST SLAVE BOXERS FOR THE REST OF MY LIFE...

I PRAY THAT WE NEVER MEET AGAIN.

I...

IF WE DO MEET AGAIN...

I WILL WITHOUT A DOUBT BE YOUR ENEMY.

CESTVS...

GOODBYE, CESTVS.

IT WAS THEN THAT CESTVS NOTICED FOR THE FIRST TIME...

THAT HE HAD BEEN ENTIRELY UNAWARE OF HIS SOCIAL STATUS, HIS WALL...

RUSKA HAD BEEN HIS FRIEND.

YET EVEN AS HE WATCHED HIS FRIENDSHIP CRUMBLE...

HE COULD NOT SHED A SINGLE TEAR.

CHAPTER XXXI: BREAKDOWN - END

拳闘暗黒伝CESTVS

セスタス

CHAPTER XXXII: PARTING

VALENS HAD LOST IT ALL.

HIS SOCIAL STANDING, HIS PRESTIGE, HIS FAMILY, HIS FORTUNE, AND EVEN HIS AMBITION.

VALENS' SLAVE BOXER TRAINING SCHOOL LAY IN RUINS.

HE WAS FORSAKEN BY HIS NOW DIVORCED WIFE.

WHILE HIS REMAINING ASSETS WERE USED UP AS COMPENSATION.

THE BELOVED ONLY DAUGHTER...

NO LONGER OF THIS WORLD, A SACRIFICE OF THE INSURRECTION.

WERE ALL MERELY BOYS.

THE FEW SURVIVING SLAVE BOXERS...

THEY WERE SOLD BY VALENS TO A SLAVE MERCHANT.

HUSK LIKE, HE DISAPPEARED FROM ROME.

NO ONE KNOWS...

WHAT BEFELL HIM AFTERWARDS.

JULIANUS VALENS...

HAD BEEN BROUGHT DOWN IN JUST ONE NIGHT.

WHAT'RE YOU MAKING THAT FACE FOR CESTVS?

WE'RE FORTUNATE EVEN BEING ALIVE NOW.

...

YEAH...

IT DEFINITELY WAS.

WE FIGURED IT WAS ROCCO PROTECTING US.

HIS COMRADES HAD SUFFERED SERIOUS WOUNDS, AND THEIR LIVES AS SLAVE BOXERS HAD BEEN BROUGHT TO AN END.

DUE TO RUSKA'S FRENZY...

WE SHOULD GET EVEN GRAVER INJURIES THEN!

IT'D BE FANTASTIC IF WE WERE TO BE DISMISSED!

IT'LL BE NICE NEVER HAVING TO FIGHT AGAIN.

IT'S ALL THANKS TO THE INJURIES HE GAVE US...

AT PRESENT, THEY WERE RECIEVING TREATMENT FROM A GOOD MINDED DOCTOR.

SORRY...

IT WAS NOT A JOKE TO BE LAUGHED AT.

THEIR FRIEND HAD SUFFERED A PREMATURE DEATH...

THEY HAD NO REASON TO SUFFER SUCH A FATE.

WERE THEY TO RECOVER, AND THEIR BODIES ONCE MORE BECOME FIT TO WORK, THEY WOULD LIKELY BE SOLD.

CAN YOU FORGIVE ME?

I WAS JUST JEALOUS OF YOU.

SORRY FOR ALWAYS TAKING JABS AT YOU TILL NOW CESTVS.

THOUGH I'D LIKE TO GET A BIT TALLER LIKE YOU...

YOU'LL DEFINITELY KEEP GETTING STRONGER!

THANKS ABEL.

CHINO...

FAREWELL.

ﾅﾞｭ…

THIS IS DEFINITELY...

THAT YOU WON'T DIE!

BUT PROMISE ME CESTVS!

MIGUEL...

DON'T LOSE, CESTVS!

チャリ…
チャリ…
チャリ…

…

STAY ALIVE!

NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS...

GOT IT?

NO MATTER WHAT DIRTY TECHNIQUES YOU HAVE TO USE...

チャリ…
チャリ…

DON'T FORGET US!

KEEP ON FIGHTING!

チャ リ…

WE'LL BE YOUR ALLIES.

NO MATTER WHAT THOSE AROUND YOU MAY SAY...

BUT WE'RE YOUR ALLIES...

DON'T FORGET THAT...

AND WE CAN'T DO ANYTHING.

WE'RE NOT IN ANY SORT OF POSITION TO HELP...

YOU THINK I'D LOSE?!

ﾌﾌﾌ...

LET'S MEET AGAIN, BRO!

WAS PROOF THAT HE HAD RESTORED HIS BONDS WITH HIS COMRADES.

THE PAIN OF THEIR PARTING...

HE HAD FRIENDS WHO WOULD WORRY ABOUT HIM.

EVEN IF THEY WERE APART...

HE WAS BY NO MEANS ALONE.

EVEN WHEN HE WAS BY HIMSELF...

THAT WAS A CERTAIN JOY THERE, EVEN AMIDST THAT PAIN...

GET IN, QUICK.

DEPART!

NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS, THEY'LL FIND SOME SLY WAY OF SURVIVING.

INDEED!

...

EVEN WITH BAD LUCK, THEY'RE A STRONG LOT.

IF IT'S THEM I'VE NO NEED TO WORRY.

THE LAST FAREWELLS SAID TO ONE'S BELOVED.

WAS ANOTHER PARTING...

HERE AS WELL...

IT HAD BEEN RUSKA'S FIRM WISH...

TO TAKE CHARGE OF VALERIA'S CORPSE.

AND BY HIS HAND, THEY HELD A SOLEMN FUNERAL.

THOUGH DIED THE THE BEARER OF THE HATRED WHICH HER FATHER HAD SOWN.

SHE HAD A KIND HEART, BEAUTIFUL SPIRIT, AND PURE BODY.

HERE LIES VALERIA, DAUGHTER OF ROME.

HER AGE AT DEATH, 15 YEARS.

I'LL BRING EVEN MORE SO THAT YOU'RE NOT LONELY.

I'VE JUST A FEW TODAY.

YOU ALWAYS LIKED LILIES VALERIA.

BUT ON YOUR BIRTHDAY, AND ON THE ANNIVERSARY OF YOUR DEATH, I'LL COME WITHOUT FAIL.

I LOVE YOU VALERIA.

I'D NOT EVEN...

SAID THOSE WORDS YET.

I...

BOSS, COME 'ERE A SEC!

YOU CAN'T JUST CLIMB UP ON IT, IT'LL FALL DOWN!

I'LL COME DOWN IF YA TELL ME SOMETHING POPS.

OIII!

YOU, KID!

HOW THE HELL'D YOU GET UP THERE?!

ドス

WHAT IS IT, AN ACCIDENT?

ドス

THERE'S SOME BRAT UP THERE...!

MM...

AAH?

WHERE IS VALENS' SLAVE BOXER TRAINING SCHOOL?

ALRIGHT, ALRIGHT, SO WHERE'RE THE SLAVE BOXERS RIGHT NOW?!

FOR REAL?!

THE DAMN SLAVE BOXERS TRIED TO BRING ABOUT AN UPRISING, AND BURNT THE WHOLE PLACE DOWN!

THIS IS THE REMAINS OF THE TRAINING SCHOOL!

IDIOT, IT'S HERE, THIS IS IT!

RIGHT HERE!

COME ON NOW, GET DOWN!

LIKE I'D KNOW! I HEARD MOST OF THEM GOT EXECUTED THOUGH!

チッ

THERE'S NO WAY THAT COULDA HAPPENED...

YOU GOT BUSINESS HERE WITH THE CHIEF, LAD...?

ヒュウウウウウ...

...

YOU MADE THE GREAT ASHLEY RUN AROUND ON A FOOL'S ERRAND.

DAMN IT. THIS IS A JOKE, AIN'T IT. THAT BLOODY CESTVS.

ギリ

ギリ

ARE YOU UNEASY, CESTVS?

ゴッ

ゴッ

ゴッ

ゴッ

OF COURSE!

ゴッ

ゴッ

ゴッ

HAAH...

A SLAVE BOXER ONLY LOSES THEIR LIFE IN THE ARENA.

WHY ARE YOU WORRIED ABOUT DYING HERE?

YOU NEED TO WORK ON THAT SIXTH SENSE OF YOURS. IF YOU WANT TO MAKE IT FROM NOW ON...

YOU NEED TO BE ABLE TO SMELL OUT DANGER.

WHEN YOU CAN EAT, EAT...

WHEN YOU CAN REST, PREPARE YOURSELF AND SLEEP FOR AS LONG AS YOU NEED.

THAT'S RATHER CHEEKY!

I TOLD YOU NOT TO DIE!

IDIIIOT!

うき～～～～っ

ゲシ

ゲシ

ゲシ

ENOUGH, GET DOWN ALREADY!

OIII!

I'LL MAKE IT THROUGH!

THINK I'LL DIE DO YOU?!

SOAKED IN THE TEARS OF PARTING, THE WHEELS SOON SPED UP...

WHERE NOW WAS THE SLAVE BOXER CESTVS OFF TO?

HEADING ONWARDS TO THE NEXT FATED TEST.